

# POPPO

10¢

of the **POPCORN** THEATRE

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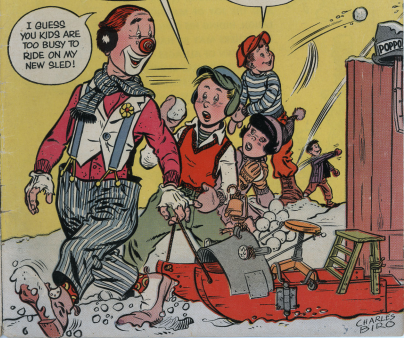
LET'S KNOCK HIS  
HAT O..G..GULP!

OH, BOY,  
WHAT A TARGET  
POPPO IS!

VOL. I NO. 4

STORY BY CHARLES BIRD  
ILLUSTRATED BY CHARLES BIRD

I GUESS  
YOU KIDS ARE  
TOO BUSY TO  
RIDE ON MY  
NEW SLED!







WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM





**POPPO**—THE CLOWN—WHO "CAN'T HELP LIKING KIDS", HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD OVER PHOTOGRAPHING HIS ADVENTURES—THE GREAT ACTS THAT PLAYED ON THE SAME BILL—AND COLLECTING PRINTS OF THE CARTOONS AND COMEDIES THAT HE ENJOYED. BORN TO THE CIRCUS, AND THE JOY OF MAKING OTHERS LAUGH, HIDING HIS OWN SORROWS SO OTHERS MAY BE HAPPY, HE IS THE CLOWN OF ALL AGES—FOR ALL AGES. NOW HE HAS RETIRED FROM THE CIRCUS, BUT STILL FINDS HIS REWARDS IN LIFE MAKING OTHERS LAUGH.

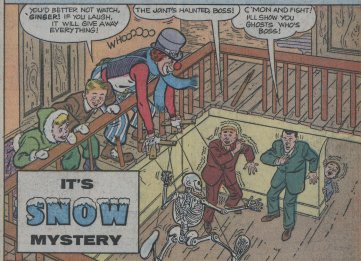


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# POPPO the CLOWN





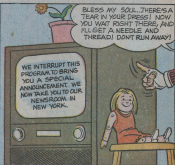
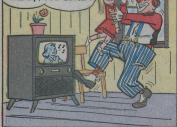
I THINK I'LL PUT ON A LITTLE PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW! THE KIDS'LL BE GOOD AND COLD, AND SOME LAUGHS WILL WARM THEM UP!



I'LL TURN ON THE TELEVISION! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE MUSIC TO WORK BY!



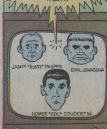
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE, MISS JUDY? THANK YOU... YOU WALTZ DIVINELY! COME NOW GIVE US A LITTLE SMILE, THERE, THAT'S BETTER!



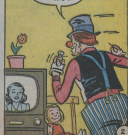
EVERYONE IN THIS AREA IS URGED TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR THREE CONVICTS WHO HAVE JUST ESCAPED FROM THE STATE PENITENTIARY! THEY'RE ARMED AND DESPERATE! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THEM. CALL THE POLICE AT ONCE.



THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE TRAVELING IN A GREEN FOUR-DOOR SEDAN. HERE ARE THEIR PHOTOS. STUDY THEM.



THERE WE ARE, HONEY! THE RIGHT COLOR TOO!





AGAIN, WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU ANOTHER SPECIAL BULLETIN ON THE SNOW STORM. EXTREMELY HEAVY SNOWS ARE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT HOUR, DEVELOPING TO BLIZZARD PROPORTIONS.

GOODNESS ME! THE KIDS ARE GOING TO BE CAUGHT IN IT!



DO NOT DRIVE YOUR CAR UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! THE WEATHER BUREAU BELIEVES THAT THIS STORM WILL BREAK ALL RECORDS FOR THIS AREA!

GOLLY, I HOPE THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT, IF THEY DON'T GET HERE PRETTY SOON, I'LL GO AFTER THEM!



BUMPY AND GINGER ARE OUT THERE, FRANK! THEY WENT SKATING. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

THEY SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW. CALL JIMMIE'S HOUSE. MAYBE THEY STOPPED THERE ON THEIR WAY BACK!



THEY'RE NOT HERE, MRS. WEBSTER! IN FACT, WE WERE JUST GOING TO CALL YOU!

THEY'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH POPPO LATELY. THEY COULD BE AT HIS HOUSE! LET'S ALL DRIVE OUT THERE BEFORE THE BLIZZARD GETS ANY WORSE!



IF I'M GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IN THAT SNOW, I'LL NEED SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER THAN MY FEET! IT CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE SOME SKIS!



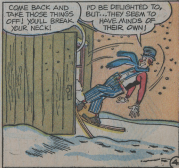
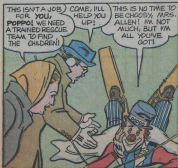
THESE ARE GOING TO BE THE BEST LITTLE OLD SKIS THAT EVER SKIDDED OUT FROM UNDER A GUY!

COME IN!

KNOCK! KNOCK!









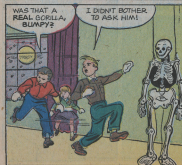


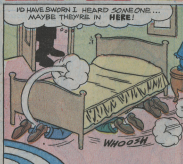
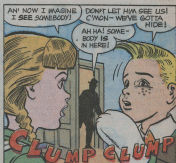




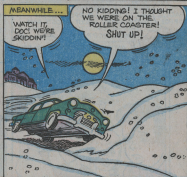
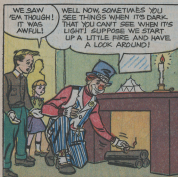
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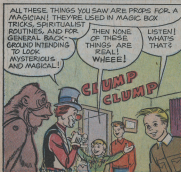
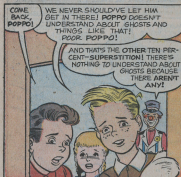
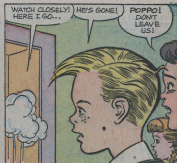
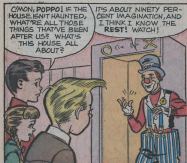
## COOL CHARACTERS



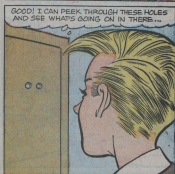
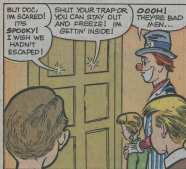


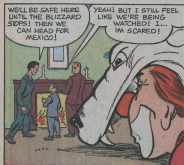








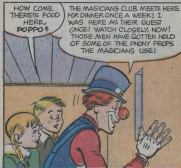




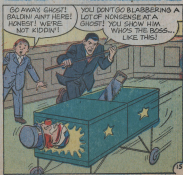
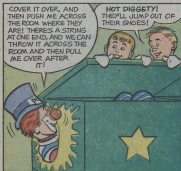
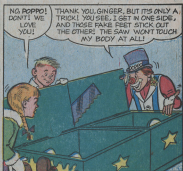


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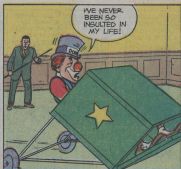
## SPOOFING SPOOKS













WHAT'S THE IDEA OF HITTING ME WITH THAT PADDLE, YOU LITTLE TWIRP!

YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT THE GHOST DID IT AN' HE STUCK IT INTO MY HAND!



THAT WAS A 'RIOT, POPPO!

COMON, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE! LET'S GO DOWN TO THE BASEMENT!

WHAT'S NEXT, POPPO?



WHY'RE WE COMING DOWN HERE, POPPO? I'M SCARED!

I'M NOT, WITH POPPO AROUND!

IT'S SAFE DOWN HERE! IT'S THOSE CROOKS, WHO ARE TO BE FEARED! I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO CATCH THEM!



THIS CHUTE CONNECTS WITH A TRAPDOOR IN A FRONT CLOSET! IF I CAN MAKE A RUN INTO THAT CLOSET, THEY MAY FOLLOW ME AND FALL THROUGH! AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE HERE YOU DO WHAT YOU THINK BEST!

OKAY, POPPO—WE'RE READY!



HE'S GOTTA BE AROUND HERE SOME PLACE, AND I'M GONNA FIND HIM!

I'D JUST AS SOON FORGET THE WHOLE THING!



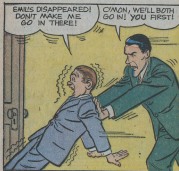
YOO HOO! YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!

THAT'S HIM! IF THAT'S A GHOST, I'M A PURPLE TREE!

Y-YIKE!





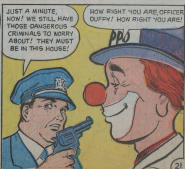
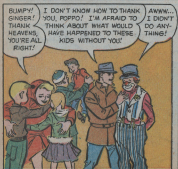




# POPPO

**FIT TO  
BE TIED**



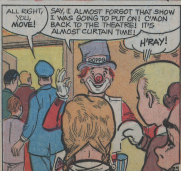
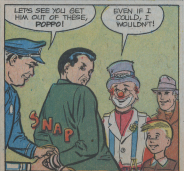
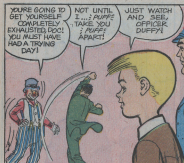












LATER AT POPPO'S POPCORN THEATRE...

A REINDEER WALKED INTO THE RESTAURANT WHERE I WAS HAVING DINNER LAST NIGHT AND ORDERED THE BLUE PLATE SPECIAL!

GOODNESS! WHAT DID THE WAITER SAY?



HE SAID, "PARDON ME FOR LOOKING SURPRISED, SIR, BUT WE'VE NEVER HAD A REINDEER IN HERE BEFORE!"

WAS NOT SURPRISED! THAT REINDEER HAD SOME NERVE!



AND THE REINDEER SAID, "NO AND WITH THESE OUT-RAGEOUS PRICES, YOU'LL NEVER SEE ANOTHER!"

OH, NO! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT WAS ANOTHER OF YOUR MISERABLE JOKES! TAKE THAT!

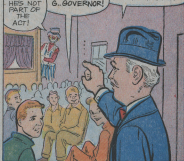
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU, POPPO!



HONEST, HE'S NOT PART OF THE ACT!

IT... IT'S THE G... GOVERNOR!

ARE YOU POPPO?



I CAN'T DENY IT!

I'M HONORED TO MEET YOU, SIR! IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SKILL, BRAVERY AND QUICK WIT, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL!



"FOR HE'S A JOOLY GOOD FELLOW!"

AWW!

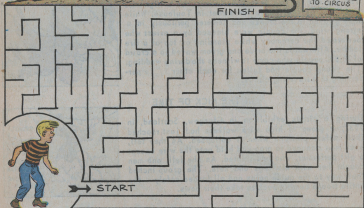
POPPO! YOU'RE BLUSHING!

HE'S OUR PAL!

RAY FOR POPPO!



THE END



POPPO IS WAITING UP AT THE MAIN TENT WITH A FREE PASS TO THE CIRCUS FOR THIS FELLA. CAN YOU SHOW HIM THE WAY TO THE CIRCUS IN FIFTEEN SECONDS?



HERE'S A LIST OF PRIZES AT THE BALL THROWING TENT BUT THEY'RE ALL MIXED UP! EVERY TIME YOU UNSCRAMBLE ONE, YOU SCORE A BULLSEYE! GOOD LUCK!

TIME, THREE MINUTES!



POPPO'S HANGING ONTO SOMETHING FOR DEAR LIFE! CONNECT THE DOTS FROM 1 TO 40, AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS! TIME, ONE MINUTE!





# CENTER RING FACTS

## SPLICED IN THE SKY

The big day for two French aerialists was a high wire wedding fifty feet above the street in Toulouse. While they swayed in the breeze and teetered perilously in a strong wind, the couple were blessed by a priest who performed the ceremony while standing on top of a fire ladder. Afterwards the bride and groom waved to a crowd of 20,000 people who came to witness the daring wedding. The young couple had fallen for each other while performing in a traveling circus.



## IN THE NICK OF TIME

During a circus exhibition in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1932, a group of high wire walkers had just reached their safety platform when it collapsed. As they fell, each man managed to grab and hold onto the wire except a girl performer, who had fainted. As she fell, one man caught her with his legs and held. The group inched their way to the guide poles and all landed safely – the entire troupe coming back to take their bows.



## BIG TIME CIRCUS

The Circus Maximus in ancient Rome under the rule of Pompey seated 150,000 spectators free. It featured boxing, wrestling, fighting elephants, men without weapons fighting lions; camel and elephant races; bareback riding; and approximately 10 to 15 chariot races, each containing from four to six chariots. The Circus Maximus was enlarged until it reached three stories high and accommodated 250,000 spectators.



## CLOWN JOEY

Joseph Grimaldi, born in London in 1779, devoted 47 of the 58 years of his life to stage and circus pantomime and became the most celebrated clown of all time. He originated and standardized the dress and general routines of the sawdust comedians and, since his day, all clowns have been nicknamed "Joey" in his honor. Soon after Grimaldi's death his memoirs were edited and published in two volumes by Charles Dickens; and his costumes were presented to the London Museum, where they may be seen to the present day.



# POPPO'S BOX of TRICKS



HERE'S A  
SLICK CARD TRICK!  
TAKE A DECK OF CARDS!  
YOUR FRIEND HANDS THEM  
TO YOU ONE AT A TIME  
BEHIND YOUR BACK!  
YOU CAN NAME THE  
COLOR OF EACH CARD,  
RED OR BLACK,  
EVERY TIME!

NOW A GREAT MIND  
READING TRICK! LEAVE  
THE ROOM WHILE YOUR  
MEDIUM IS TOLD A SECRET  
NUMBER. WHEN YOU  
RETURN, YOU PLACE YOUR  
HANDS ON HIS FOREHEAD  
TO CONCENTRATE!  
ALTHOUGH NO WORD  
IS SPOKEN YOU  
ALWAYS GET THE  
NUMBER!

HOW DO YOU DO IT? SIMPLE!  
JUST RUN SOME STEEL WOOL  
LIGHTLY OVER THE BACK AND  
FRONT OF EVERY RED CARD!  
YOU CAN THEN RECOGNIZE  
THE RED ONES BY THEIR  
ROUGHNESS!

THIS IS A CUTE "ODD  
OR EVEN" STUNT! HOLD  
SEVERAL COINS IN YOUR CLOSED  
HAND AND OFFER TO GIVE THEM  
AWAY IF YOUR FRIEND CAN  
GUESS WHETHER THE TOTAL  
IS ODD OR EVEN! HE  
ALWAYS LOSES!

YOUR FINGERS ARE PLACED ON HIS  
TEMPLES AND HE CLENCHES HIS  
TEETH ONCE FOR EACH NUMBER.  
YOU CAN FEEL THE CLENCHING BUT  
IT CAN NOT BE SEEN BY THE  
AUDIENCE!

THE COINS MUST BE A DIME, A NICKEL,  
AND FIVE PENNIES. IF THE PERSON GUESSES  
ODD, TOTAL UP THE SUM TO 20 CENTS. WHICH  
IS EVEN. IF HE GUESSES EVEN, TOTAL UP  
THE NUMBER OF COINS TO 7, WHICH IS  
AN ODD FIGURE.



# BOX of TRICKS



IM GOING TO TEACH YOU THE FAMOUS TRICK OF THE DISAPPEARING BLUE CARD... SHOW A RED, A BLUE, AND A WHITE CARD AS YOU DROP EACH ONE INTO AN EMPTY HAT! TAKE OUT THE RED AND WHITE CARDS! ASK THE AUDIENCE TO GUESS WHAT IS LEFT! THEY GUESS BLUE, BUT...IT IS RED!

ONE CARD HAS A RED SIDE AND A BLUE SIDE. YOU SHOW THE BLUE SIDE. WHEN IT GOES INTO THE HAT, AND THE RED SIDE WHEN YOU REMOVE IT! LEAVE THE REAL RED CARD IN THE HAT AND PUT THE OTHERS IN YOUR POCKET!

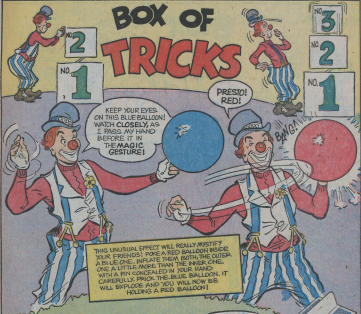
WANT A COLOR TRICK? HERE'S A BEAUTY! PUT FIVE CRAYONS OF DIFFERENT COLORS ON A TABLE. SOMEBODY HANDS YOU ONE BEHIND YOUR BACK! BY FINGERING IT, YOU CAN TELL HIM WHAT COLOR IT IS!

HERE'S A NIFTY COIN TRICK! PLACE A CENT AND A DIME ON THE TABLE! WHEN YOU TURN AWAY, SOMEONE PICKS UP ONE COIN AND HOLDS IT OVER YOUR HEAD WHILE YOU SAY POPPO TEN TIMES. THEN THE COIN IS REPLACED ON THE TABLE. NOW PLACE BOTH COINS ON YOUR FOREHEAD. CON-CEN-TRATE...AND YOU WILL KNOW WHICH ONE WAS CHOSEN!

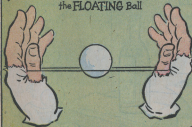
WHEN THE CRAYON IS PLACED IN YOUR HAND, YOU SCRAPE OFF A SMALL BIT WITH YOUR FINGERNAIL. POINT YOUR FINGER DRAMATICALLY AS YOU ANNOUNCE THE COLOR. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

THE WARMER COIN WILL BE THE CORRECT ONE. THE HEAT OF THE PERSON'S HAND WILL HAVE MADE IT WARMER THAN THE OTHER!

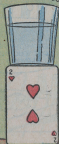
# BOX OF TRICKS



## the FLOATING Ball



HOLD A LOOP OF THIN BLACK THREAD BY YOUR THUMB, AND PLACE A PING PONG BALL ON THE TIGHTLY STRETCHED THREADS. IN A DIM LIGHT, AS THE BALL ROLLS BACK AND FORTH, IT WILL APPEAR TO BE FLOATING WEIRDLY IN SPACE!



YOU WILL AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS BY STANDING A PLAYING CARD UPRIGHT AND BALANCING A GLASS OF WATER ON ITS JUST FOSTE A FLAP ON THE BACK OF THE CARD. (IF THE FLAP HAS THE SAME DESIGN AS THE BACK OF THE CARD, IT WILL BE INVISIBLE WHEN IT IS FOLDED DOWN.)



# BOX of TRICKS



HERE ARE THREE  
SIMPLE OBJECTS, FALS!  
A SHEET OF WHITE PAPER...  
A COIN...AND A DRINKING  
GLASS. I COVER THE COIN  
WITH THE GLASS AND  
KA-ZOOM! IT DISAPPEARS!  
WHERE DID IT GO?

HERE'S HOW! CUT A ROUND DISC OF WHITE  
PAPER TO FIT THE TOP OF A GLASS. PASTE  
THIS DISC TO THE RIM OF THE GLASS AND  
WIPE AWAY ANY EXCESS PASTE. WHEN  
THE GLASS IS RESTING UPSIDE DOWN ON  
THE WHITE SHEET OF PAPER, ITS WHITE  
COVER WILL BE INVISIBLE. SLIDE THE  
GLASS OVER THE COIN...THE COIN SEEMS  
TO DISAPPEAR! SLIDE THE GLASS  
AWAY...THE COIN REAPPEARS AS IF  
BY MAGIC!



CAN YOU  
BLOW THIS BIG  
POP BOTTLE  
OVER? I  
CAN!

I SHOOK A LITTLE PEPPER  
ONTO A PILE OF SALT! I CAN  
REMOVE THE PEPPER WITH-  
OUT TOUCHING IT OR  
BLOWING IT!



SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE, DOESN'T IT? JUST RUN  
A COMB THROUGH YOUR HAIR TO GENERATE  
ELECTRICITY. NOW PASS THE COMB BACK AND  
FORTH OVER THE MIXTURE. THE PEPPER, SINCE  
IT IS LIGHTER IN WEIGHT THAN THE SALT, IS  
EASILY ATTRACTED TO THE COMB AND JUMPS  
TOWARD IT. A FEW GRAINS OF SALT MAY COME  
UP, TOO, BUT YOU WILL REMOVE ALL THE PEPPER.

PLACE A PAPER BAG ON THE TABLE AND  
STAND A BOTTLE OF POP ON IT. NOW BLOW  
INTO THE PAPER BAG AND THE BOTTLE  
WILL FALL OVER.



SHARE THE TREASURED  
SECRETS of  
the **MOST LOVABLE CLOWN**

in the WORLD,  
**DON'T MISS NEXT  
WEEK'S ISSUE**

**POPPO**

ASK  
YOUR  
STORE-  
KEEPER  
TO SAVE  
YOUR  
COPY!



IT'S

COLOSSAL!

STUPENDOUS!

STARTLING!

SUPER!

**KIDS!**

*See and hear me every week*

**ON T.V.**

*Tune in*

*Poppo*

**"THE POPCORN THEATRE"**

a full hour of fun with POPPO, cartoons,  
comedies and adventure!

**LOOK IN YOUR LOCAL PAPER FOR TIME AND STATION**

